

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04177 071240Z

41

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 /010 W
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R 071155Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4321
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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FOR CU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, NI
SUBJECT: FESTAC

1. AMBASSADOR EASUM RAN INTO DONALDSON AND FULLER MARCH 20 AT AIRPORT AS THEY DEPARTING AFTER PARTICIPATING FESTAC ZONAL COMMITTEES CONFERENCE. THEY SEEMED SHEEPISH AT FAILURE CONTACT AMBASSADOR OR PAO DURING THEIR STAY. DONALDSON TOLD AMBASSADOR CONFERENCE USEFUL. SAID CASTLEBERRY'S LAWSUIT AGAINST NAZ AND FESTAC SECRETARIAT WAS NOT BEING PRESSED AND IT APPEARED IT WOULD BE QUIETLY RESOLVED WITHOUT PUBLIC CONFRONTATION. SAID AMBASSADOR SANU EXPECTED TO HOST A PARTY TO SPUR NAZ FUND-RAISING ON APR 23. STATED THAT ALTHOUGH NEW FUND-RAISING ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR NAZ SEEMS VERY GOOD, HE FEARFUL THAT BAR BEACH EXECUTIONS AND SIMILAR EVENTS IN NIGERIA WILL DISCOURAGE POTENTIAL AMERICAN CONTRIBUTORS TO NAZ.

2. PAO AND CAO MET WITH FESTAC PRESIDENT FANGESI AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR ONWAUCHI ON APR 5. FINGESI SAID THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE HOUSED IN FESTIVAL VILLAGE WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN PLENTY OF TIME. HE INDICATED OCNERN OVER ABILITY OF NAZ TO RAISE NECESSARY FUNDS TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION OF 1500 AMERICANS--NUMBER TO WHICH NAZ COMMITTED. ONWAUCHI STATED THAT DONALDSON HAD BEEN VERY RUDE DURING HIS PRIVATE MEETING WITH FINGESI AND ONWAUCHI, ATTACKING THE LATTER FOR "WORKING WITH THE STATE
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 04177 071240Z

DEPARTMENT TO OUST DONALDSON AND HIS COLLEAGUES FROM NAZ."

ONWAUCHI SAID HE DOUBTS NAZ'S CAPABILITY, AS NOW CONSTITUTED, TO ATTRACT BROAD "HORIZONTAL" SUPPORT FROM BLACK AMERICAN COMMUNITY. IS HOPING THAT A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF LEADING BLACK AMERICAN WILL SEND AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION TO FESTAC PRESIDENT STATING THAT NAZ NEEDS TO BE REORGANIZED--ONLY ACTION SUCH AS THAT CAN PROVIDE VALID JUSTIFICATION FOR FESTAC SECRETARIAT TO INITIATE ACTION TO REORGANIZE NAZ. FINGESI SUGGESTED SUCH A LETTER SHOULD COME FROM USG; PAO DEMURRED AND ONWAUCHI SUPPORTED DEMURRAL EXPLAINING NEUTRAL POSITION WHICH USG REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN. FINGESI SAID THAT HE WILL GO TO U.S. FOR NAZ FUND-RAISING PARTY "IN MAY" AND TAKE FIRST-HAND LOOK AT NAZ RESULTS TO DATE. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ONWAUCHI AND PLANS TO CALL ON CU OFFICIALS THEN. PAO REITERATED THAT NO MAJOR FUNDING FOR NAZ CAN BE ANTICIPATED FROM USG SOURCESM

3. SENEGAL'S DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN FESTAC HAS RECEIVED NO PUBLICITY IN NIGERIA. FESTAC SECRETARY GENERAL DIOP HAS BEEN CALLED TO DAKAR FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH SENGHOR, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS EFFECTS OF THAT DECISION. PAO RAISED MATTER WITH FINGESI WHO STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN DECISION TO MAKE FESTAC PAN-AFRICAN RATHER THAN BLACK AFRICAN MANIFESTATION--A DECISION REACHED BY CONSENSUS OF ALL PARTICIPATING ZONAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES. FROM DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES HERE, POST ANTICIPATES WITHDRAWAL FROM FESTAC BY OTHER FRANCOPHONE BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND NON-PARTICIPATION BY FRANCE.

4. VIBES FROM BLACK AMERICANS PASSING THROUGH LAGOS INDICATE GROWING LACK OF INTEREST IN FESTAC AND NON-CONFIDENCE IN NAZ WHICH ALLEGED TO BE NOT RPT NOT IN TOUCH WITH BLACK AMERICAN LEADERS. SEEMS REASONABLE ASSUME THAT SENEGALESE WITHDRAWAL WILL FURTHER DAMPEN INTEREST OF PRIVATE AMERICANS IN CONTRIBUTING FUNDS TO FESTAC OR PARTICIPATING IN IT.

5. IN VIEW THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AMBASSADOR WILL NOT SEND REQUESTED SUPPORTIVE LETTER TO DONALDSON AT THIS TIME UNLESS DEPARTMENT JUDGES IT WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE.
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 04177 071240Z

6. PLEASE KEEP POST INFORMED ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING NAZ.
EASUM

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